

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM REP. MONTGOMERY - MIA'S IN SOUTHEAST

1. FOLLOWING LETTER DATED OCT. 17 TO SECRETARY FROM REP. G. V. MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, RECEIVED AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION: BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

2. KNOWING OF YOUR SCHEDULED VISIT TO CHINA, BOTH AS A PRE-LIMINARY TO THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP AND TO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT FORD, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING A MATTER TO YOUR ATTENTION. AS YOU ARE AWARE, CONGRESS HAS APPOINTED A SELECT COMMITTEE TO TRY TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED NATIONAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN A PROPER ACCOUNTING FOR PERSONS STILL MISSING AND THE RELEASE OF PERSONS NOW HELD IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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3. IT IS THE FEELING OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS MISSION. ACCORDINGLY THE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THAT I WRITE TO YOU ASKING THAT YOU TRY TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN DURING THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS. THESE QUESTIONS ARE ATTACHED.

4. THE COMMITTEE FULLY REALIZES THE SENSITIVITY OF RELATIONS WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD PURSUE EVERY POSSIBLE AVENUE IN SEEKING A RESOLUTION TO THIS MATTER WHICH IS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SEEKING ANSWERS TO THE ENCLOSED QUESTIONS AND ASK THAT YOU REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE AT SUCH TIME AS YOU ARE ABLE. SINCERELY, GILLESPIE V. MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

6. QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

7. WILL THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ASK NORTH VIETNAM, LAOS, SOUTH VIETNAM, AND CAMBODIA TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF AMERICANS HELD AS CAPTIVES OR PRISONERS IN ANY OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND TO OBTAIN A PROPER ACCOUNTING OF PERSONS REPORTED AS MISSING OR MISSING IN ACTION IN THOSE SAME COUNTRIES?

8. ARE ANY AMERICANS, CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, STILL BEING HELD IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

9. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AMERICANS BEING HELD AS PRISONERS OR CAPTIVES ARE BEING MOVED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE BORDERS OF LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM INTO THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

10. THERE ARE SOME KNOWN DECEASED AMERICANS WHOSE REMAINS HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, WOULD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ASK NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM, LAOS, AND CAMBODIA TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST IN THE REPATRIATION OF THESE REMAINS?

11. IF NORTH VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM WERE WILLING, WOULD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PROVIDE PERSONNEL AS MEMBERS OF SEARCH TEAMS FROM NEUTRAL NATIONS

TO SEARCH KNOWN AND SUSPECTED CRASH AND BURIAL SITES FOR
THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING ANJ RETURNING THE REMAINS OF
AMERICAN PERSONNEL? END TEXT

12. FYI - GUIDANCE ON THESE SUBJECTS IS CONTAINED IN
SECRETARY'S BRIEFING MATERIALS. REP MONTGOMERY
PARTICULARLY ASKED THAT LETTER BE FORWARDED TO SECRETARY'S
PARTY BY THIS MEANS. END FYI INGERSOLL

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